

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Barbara Marshall and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

I am an 80 year old grandmother of an amazing gay grandson. When he came out to his family as a 9th grader, he opened my eyes to the world of creative, talented, loving individuals I might have otherwise missed. I have been privileged to travel and learn alongside him, as we ushered at HRC banquets, marched in Pride parades, and mourned the hundreds murdered annually simply because they were transgender. My world is richer and fuller because of this experience.

Yet, we live in a state where my grandson and others might be fired, lose their housing, or be denied a sale simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Ohio lawmakers have clearly demonstrated their concern for the unborn child. Where is your concern for the life of every child? Must your responsibility end at birth?

As a taxpayer, I rue the businesses that will hesitate to locate in a state where their employees are not valued and safe from discrimination.

Lastly, as a compassionate Christian, I urge you to respect the human rights of all our citizens, including the LGBTQ and add them to state anti-discrimination laws.

Thank you for consideration of my views.

Respectfully submitted,
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